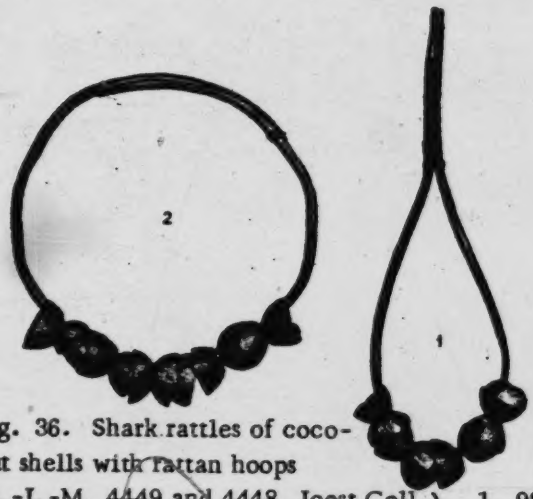
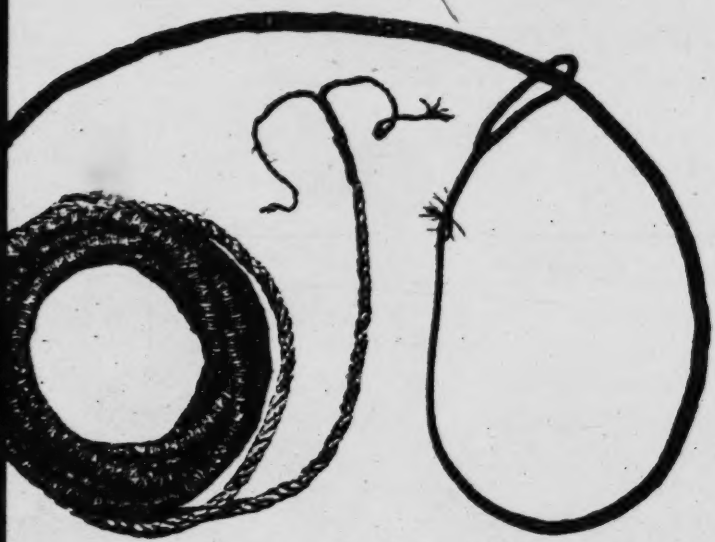



Fig. 36. Shark rattles of coconut shells with rattan hoops (R.-J.-M. 4449 and 4448, Joest Coll.). 1. 98 cm. long. 2. 55 cm. in diameter.



[283]

Fig. 37. Shark noose (R.-J.-M. 4451, Joest Coll.); total length 12 meters. Twisted rope, partly wound with plaited string.

[117 cont.] Strips of
• 283 rattan serve for lashings (8), or, for finer work, plaited or twisted

8. Dalrymple, pp. 89, 193.

rope and strings of coconut and other plant fibers (Fig. 47, Nos. 1 and 2). The twisting of the string is done on the upper thigh
413 with the ball of the right thumb (9). As a special tool, probably

9. Joest, Tagebuch, p. 86.

used in preparing [118] [Fig. 46 appears here] atap for roof
[237] coverings, the needles of pigs' ribs must be mentioned (Fig. 47,
396 No. 3) (1). Boat-building, as everywhere in Polynesia, is a craft
461

1. Edge-Partington, III, 65, No. 3. Berlin VI 16002. It is not wholly improbable that the needles are used for the embroidery of the plaited bags; cf. pp. 101 f.

that is particularly respected. In Vanikoro a chief was a famous boat-builder -- Gaimard, however, also gives evidence that the boat-builders had no perseverance and very often rested (2) --

2. Cf. p. 81. Gaimard in D'Urville, p. 334.

396 and on Ndeni the craft was hereditary in certain families. By
[428] washing the hand of his son with water, the artist transmits his skill to his heir before his death. The completion of a boat is therefore connected with certain formalities, for example the builder must row the new boat out to sea and then let it be tossed
[784] about on the breakers so that the spirit of the place where the tree was felled is driven away. He also believes that this will keep evil influences away from the ax that was used for the work (3).

3. O'Ferrall in J.A.I., XXXIV, p. 225.

283

413

Fig. 47. 1. Twisted string of brown fiber, rubbed with a waxy substance (coconut oil?) (R.-J.-M. 4044, Joest Coll.); one mm. thick, bundle 7 1/2 cm. in diameter. 2. Plaited string of coconut fiber (R.-J.-M. 4392, Joest Coll.; 1.1 cm. thick, ball 13 cm. in diameter. 3. Needle of pig's rib (R.-J.-M. 4461, Joest Coll.); 15 cm. long.

285

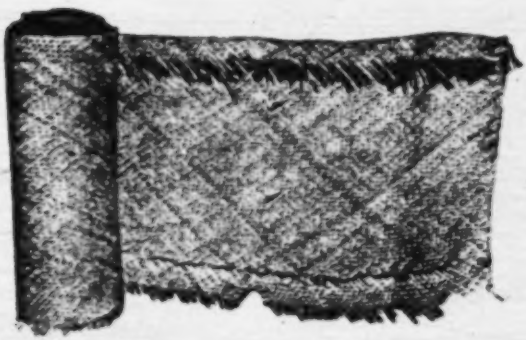


Fig. 48. Mat for sleeping (R.-J.-M. 3988, Joest Coll.; 50 cm. wide, total length 8.70 meters.

/195 cont./

287 are 265 × 70 and 295 × 62 along the sides. [The patterns are named after objects in nature (2).] A unique specimen is a large

[531]

2. [Jennings, JAI, XXVIII, p. 164. He lists the following patterns: "Yam," "River," "Banana," "Breadfruit."]

piece of tapa dyed a greenish blue (Basel V 2727). It is doubtful whether this comes from Nitendi (3).

[177]

3. [It has undoubtedly been brought from the central Solomon Islands. Cf. the material in the Berlin museum from Rubiana (according to Dr. Graebner) and R.-J.-M. No. 4431 (from the collection of Wilhelm Joest, who spent some time on Rubiana); see also Edge-Partington and Heape, II, 123, where indigo-blue tapa from Isabel is described.]

286 283 [The banana fiber used for weaving (4) is obtained in

4. [Ethn., I, pp. 123 ff. Wide looms have recently been illustrated in O'Ferrall, section "Mat Making" (= Coombe, plate between pp. 182 and 183), and in Speiser, Südsee, Ill. 91.]

the following way: the banana stalk is placed on a block of wood and pounded to a pulp with a heavy piece of wood; the soft parts are then removed by scraping; the fibers are hung in the 286 sun to dry and finally combed out (5). A woven men's mat

5. [O'Ferrall, ibid.]

/197 cont./

412

Herrenschmidt, p. 106, for the Reef Islands, and by Lennier, Cat., p. VII, for Vanikoro. -- Bone needles (Ethn., I, pp. 118 f. and Fig. 47, No. 3) are also mentioned by Jennings, JAI, XXVIII, p. 165, and therefore may be regarded as certain for Nitendi.]

283

String is made in quantities (3) [some of it with two

3. [Ethn., I, p. 117.]

different kinds of strands (4)]. For the lashings on boats, cords

4. [As in the ankle ornament shown in Fig. 10.]

made of coconut fiber are generally used. In addition cords of different strengths for fishing lines and nets are found. They are twisted out of a soft, flax-like /Fig. 44 appears here/ fiber and are usually rubbed with a resin or wax through which they acquire some stiffening and a dark reddish color (5).

5. [Such a cord is shown in Ethn., I, p. 119, Fig. 47, No. 1. It therefore is not used for building houses or boats. Dr. Speiser is unfamiliar with the ball of plaited coconut-fiber cord shown in ibid., Fig. 47, No. 2, but a similar ball of a different kind of cord is shown in Lennier, Pl. IV, for Vanikoro.]

286 [462] [804] [912]

For net making, practiced exclusively by men, /Fig. 45 appears here/ a longish rectangular little board or piece of tortoise shell is used to measure the size of the mesh, and a

/200 cont./

411 22, is carrying in his belt, is from Tucopia, where I acquired clubs of such form.

Among the bows that I acquired [the strings of which [283] consist of the twisted bast of the thin aerial root of a fig tree] (4),

4. [Speiser, Südsee, p. 291.]

several are reflex, but others were not, even on the spot. Hence it is doubtful whether the reflexiveness is intentional, for, after all, primitive man is not a precision worker, and, although reflex bows occur along with non-reflex ones on Espiritu Santo also, this does not necessarily mean that there is a cultural relationship, especially if the general type, for example, the form of the string support, is different. At the string support, on the [531] inner side of the bow, there is often an incised decoration of the form , also occasionally a simple coconut-string loop.

I have already described the arrows (5) [with bone points]

5. [They are stuck into the right side of the belt: Speiser, Südsee, p. 291 and Ill. 70.]

in AfA, new series, Vol. VIII, p. 308 (6). I was no longer able

6. [The article appeared at about the same time as Graebner's study, where arrows are discussed on pp. 134 ff. In the former, long bone points made out of one piece and wooden intermediate parts consisting of several pieces are mentioned. Graebner notes that various arrow shafts of the Joest Collection (in fact, most of them) are decorated by having broad areas of the epidermis peeled off and painted black. On the other hand, Speiser, ibid., p. 308, points out, on the basis of the Berlin material, that the

[531]

3:Davenport E-5 (1958-1960)1962
ON13 Santa Cruz ON13

287 [285] toward each end, he brings the foundation cords together, sheathes them with turtle shell and plaits them into a triangular end piece into which he works a hallmark design of his own. Finally the [283] cords, braided together, are fastened to a bark ring. The completed belt of currency is rolled up from the ends toward [436]

[7 98 (D)]